

Volume V

## Market Street

church of Christ 514 West Market Street P.O. Box 388 Athens, Alabama 35612 Phone (256) 232-1525

## Schedule of Services

#### Elders

Jerry McGlocklin	(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith	(256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton	(256) 232-2081

## Deacons

Marty R. Adams	(256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz	(256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm	(256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell	
Todd Williams	(205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl	(256) 683-9396

## **Evangelists**

David A. Cox	(256) 233-8910
	(256) 614-3757
Jordan Lovell	(256) 777-8998

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## MARKET STREET MESSENGER

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church. David A. Cox, Editor October 13, 2013

No. 41

## **Beginning Today**

# **Gospel Meeting**

## October 13-17

(Sunday – Thursday)

## **Schedule of Services**

Sunday – 9:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

## Evangelist – Gardner Hall

of Port Murray, New Jersey

# MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

514 West Market Street Athens, Alabama

## I Can't Overcome My Past

## Gardner Hall

"I have felt these tendencies since I was a child," declared some homosexuals. "I could never be anything different."

"Everyone in my family has a hot temper," says a divisive brother. "That's just the way I am."

With similar statements, we excuse our lack of repentance for vices and bad attitudes, presenting ourselves as helpless victims of past experiences. In doing so, we disregard the regenerating power of the gospel to make us new creatures in Christ's image.

## My Past May Leave Me With Obstacles and Thorns

The scriptures acknowledge that sin we have committed as well as that committed against us leaves scars, pain and difficult obstacles. Old Testament characters like Leah, Jeptah, Tamar and Hosea must have struggled mightily to overcome rejection and abuse. Paul's persecution of others left him in such deep anguish that he referred to himself as "chief of sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15).

Though we are put off by the growing number of whiners and "victims," Christians must not overreact to such by becoming cynical and harsh towards those who are suffering. Impatiently telling those with spiritual wounds to "fess up" or "snap out of it," is not following Christ's teaching or example (Luke 6:36; James 2:13, etc.). Such severe and unfeeling responses are like those of Job's "friends" and are prevalent in the cults of control like the Boston Movement. Firmness in proclaiming the need for repentance or perseverance, should not be incompatible with gentleness and love.

## All Can Be Controlled And Overcome

Though my past can leave me scarred, the good news is that through Christ's death, all can be forgiven. Through His sanctifying Word, old spiritual bugaboos can be controlled and eventually overcome. The New Testament is filled with references to the power of the gospel to change lives.

- The gospel is the "power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16)
- "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power..." (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Paul prayed to Him "who is able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power

that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

• Paul was confident that the Colossians would be "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power" (Colossians 1:11).

New Testament examples abound of those who overcame sinful pasts to become pure and powerful servants of Jesus.

• The apostle Paul was cleansed and forgiven for participating in the persecution and death of faithful Christians.

Murderers of Christians can overcome their past through the grace of God!

• The Thessalonians "turned to God from idols" (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Pagan idol worshippers can overcome their past!

• Peter overcame his impulsiveness to be a pillar among God's people.

## Those who are impulsive can overcome their past!

• Some of the Corinthians had been "fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and extortioners" but they were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). *Homosexuals, fornicators, drug addicts (drunkards) and others entangled in ungodly lifestyles can overcome their past!* 

## Modern Examples

The gospel of Christ is still powerful today to free from the past those who are willing to turn to Him. The lives of close friends illustrate the point:

"Jane" (not her real name) never knew who her father was. Her mother chased her out of the house telling her that she didn't want her around. Often Jane sorted through garbage to find something to eat. Today Jane is a happy faithful Christian and a dear friend who has blessed hundreds of people.

Matt was a faithful member of a congregation here in the Northeast who moved to another state. Several years ago he wrote an article in "Sentry Magazine," confessing homosexual tendencies that came from a troubled childhood, but relating at the same time about learning to control them by applying Biblical principles in life.

Other close friends have learned to deal with alcoholism, religious error, uncontrollable tempers, despair from death of loved ones and every imaginable blow that Satan could deliver. Their purity and hope in spite of grievous spiritual wounds, both self inflicted and those delivered by others, reassure us that the gospel is still powerful to free from the past today just as it was in the first century!

With God's grace and power along with our genuine repentance and determination to take responsibility for our lives, even the most vile impulses can be controlled and eventually overcome. The deepest and most painful wounds can begin to heal. The idea that our past cannot be dealt with, is a lie of Satan, designed to keep us enchained to him. All things can become new in Christ and we can be white and pure as snow through Him. Never forget, there's soul cleansing power in the blood of the Lamb!

-via Christianity Magazine, March/April 1996.

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## Does God Want You To Be Happy?

## Jim Jonas

It is not uncommon to hear someone rationalize a sinful situation by saying, "Well, I just believe God wants me to be happy." This is a valid sentiment – God does want us to be happy. But it is a whopper of a misapplication.

First, our chief aim in life is to conform our lives to God's will simply because He is God! So the whole process of trying to rationalize our behavior and seek our own "happiness" is suspect from the beginning. "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). "Speak, for Your servant heard" (1 Samuel 3:10).

Second, what is "happiness?" The way it is used above means "what I want to do." Many want to define their own happiness, but the problem is that we are extremely inept at doing this. People do all kinds of things – get drunk, have affairs, swindle others – all because it makes them "happy." "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Third, God understands that our happiness is di-

rectly linked to doing His will. Yes, God does want us to be happy, and He has told us exactly what makes us happy! What truly makes us happy is to remain married, honor and serve our mate, grow through problem, endure heartaches and setbacks – not frivolously divorce and remarry. Mountains of statistics can be cited which chronicle the unhappiness of adultery and divorce, yet our society continues to indulge in them under the banner of "I want to be happy" (and God wants me to be happy, too!). "Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life" (Psalm 119:92-93).

Now, in a vacuum most of us would acknowledge the above principles and say a hearty, "Amen!" But we are challenged when our emotions become inflamed, when perhaps a family member finds himself crossways with the will of God, or when carnal desire overwhelms and drive us to search for a plausible rational to justify sinful satisfaction.

Essentially, this is a trust issue. Do I trust God enough to believe Him when He tells me what will really make me happy?

-via The Centerville Journal, Centerville, Virginia



## THE SICK:

Irene Mitchell Mary Hinkle Mot Dollar Betty Hastings Gwen Bullock Charles Burns Abby Gilbert Phillip Harwell Una King Currier Lisa Swafford Buddy Pepper Doris Claxton Bobby McGuire Wynell Casteel Elizabeth Kate Miller Morgan Barksdale Jerry Taylor Ava Brooke Cambell Mark Hargrove

## In The Hospital:

Arvid McGuire; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 667

## Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100 Mattye Murray, rm. 60 Harvey Pope, rm. 18 Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102 Mable Crafts, rm. 71

## Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Jack Cannon, rm. 111-A Albert Norton, rm. 36 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74 Geneva Davis; rm. 14-E

## Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville: Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville: Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

## Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home Lola Colwell, at home Mary Ruth Gardner, at home David Rice, Mobile, Alabama Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**CONFESSION & PRAYER:** On Thursday morning, Bill Claxton stated that he want to ask forgiveness of sins. If he has wronged anyone in the past, he desired to make it right. We prayed together and he asked that I make this known to the church. I appreciate Bill and the good heart he has demonstrated in wanting to please God above all things. We pray that the Lord will bless him and that as we work together it will be to the honor and glory to God.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are studying the book of "Proverbs". All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember Mitzi Carruth's son-in-law, Joel Smith, who is in Afghanistan serving the U. S. military. Keep him in your prayers.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group One will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECO	<b>RD:</b> Attendance for the	week of Oct. 6th
Sunday:	Bible Classes	126
	Morning Worship	179
	Evening Worship	120
Wednesday:		
-	Bible Classes	104

## Men Privileged To Serve:

## Sunday, October 13th:

## Morning Worship

Announcements		Keith Hinkle
Song Leader		Stefan Fudge
Prayer		Joel Hamm
Preaching		Gardner Hall
Lord's Supper		
Presiding		Larry Mitchell
Presiding Assisting		Dwaine Allfrey
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl.	Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer		NT 1 · 1 A 1

## **Evening Worship**

Announcements	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Terry Andrews
Preaching	Gardner Hall
Lord's Supper	Larry Mitchell
Closing Prayer	Róss Melvin

Other Assignments for Sunday, Octob	er 13th:
Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams

## Wednesday, October 16th:

Song Leader Bible Reading	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	No Ŕeading
Praver	Tommy Coblentz
Prayer Invitation	Gardner Hall
Closing Prayer	
e :	

## Sunday, October 20th:

#### Morning Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Todd Willams
Prayer	Marcus Morris
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Jerry McGlocklin
Assisting	
Serving	. Norman Brown Nathaniel Adams
	. David Terry Brandon Griswold
	Keith Hinkle

#### **Evening Worship**

Announcements	
Song Leader	
Prayer	
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Closing Prayer	Ťommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 20th: Usher ..... Delmer Carter Work Sound System ...... Terry Andrews